

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method for persistently storing an object belonging to a
2 class, wherein the method comprises performing a machine-executed operation
3 involving instructions, wherein the machine-executed operation is at least one of
4 comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
5 a) sending said instructions over transmission media;
6 b) receiving said instructions over transmission media;
7 c) storing said instructions onto a machine-readable storage medium; and
8 d) executing the instructions;
9 wherein said instructions are instructions which, when executed by one or more
10 processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
11 in response to receiving a request to instantiate ~~instantiating~~ a persistent
12 agent for said class, performing the steps of:
13 (a) creating one or more structures within a persistent object store,
14 wherein said one or more structures have portions that
15 correspond to respective fields of objects belonging to said
16 class; and
17 (b) instantiating a class-specific persistent agent for storing objects
18 that belong to said class, wherein the class-specific
19 persistent agent provides ~~based on a name identifying the~~
20 class, said persistent agent providing an interface, including
21 that includes a routine, for persistently storing the object in
22 [[a]] said structures within said persistent object store,
23 wherein said class-specific persistent agent may only be
24 used for operations involving objects belonging to said
25 class; and
26 in response to invoking the routine, the class-specific persistent agent
27 storing the object in said one or more structures within the

28 persistent object store, wherein the object is not derived from a
29 persistent object base class by invoking the routine via the interface
30 provided by the persistent agent.

1 2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said instructions,
2 when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to
3 further perform further comprising the step of modifying the object in the
4 persistent object store ~~based on~~ using the interface provided by the class-specific
5 persistent agent.

1 3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of
2 instantiating the class-specific persistent agent includes the step of instantiating
3 the class-specific persistent agent based on a fully qualified name for the class.

1 4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein:
2 the persistent object store includes a relational database;
3 and the step of the class-specific persistent agent storing the object in said one or
4 more structures within the persistent object store includes the step of the
5 class-specific persistent agent storing the object in at least one database
6 table corresponding to the class.

1 5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the step of
2 instantiating the class-specific persistent agent includes the steps of:
3 determining if the at least one database table corresponding to the class has been
4 created; and
5 if the at least one database table is determined not to have been created, then
6 creating the at least one database table.

1 6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the step of the
2 class-specific persistent agent storing the object in at least one database table
3 includes the [[steps]] step of:
4 storing values of at least some of [[the]] a set of fields, of the object, in
5 corresponding columns of the database table.

1 7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said instructions,
2 when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to
3 further perform ~~further comprising~~ the step of designating at least some of the
4 columns as primary key columns based on a list of corresponding field names of
5 the object.

1 8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said instructions,
2 when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to
3 further perform ~~further comprising~~ the step of building an index on at least some
4 of the columns based on a list of corresponding field names of the object.

1 9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said object is a
2 first object, wherein said class is a first class, wherein the first object contains an
3 ~~other~~ a second object that [[belong]] belongs to an other a second class, said
4 ~~method further comprising the steps of~~ wherein said instructions, when executed
5 by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to further perform
6 the steps of:
7 instantiating an other a second class-specific persistent agent based on the other
8 said second class, wherein said second class-specific persistent agent may
9 only be used for operations involving objects belonging to said second
10 class, wherein said second class is different than said first class; and
11 storing the other second object in the persistent object store based on the other
12 second class-specific persistent agent.

1 10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said instructions,
2 when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to
3 further perform ~~further comprising~~ the step of establishing a session with the
4 persistent object store[[]], wherein the step of instantiating the class-specific
5 persistent agent includes the step of instantiating the class-specific persistent agent
6 based on the session.

1 11. (Currently amended) A method ~~of~~ for retrieving a set of objects from a persistent

2 object store, wherein the method comprises performing a machine-executed
3 operation involving instructions, wherein the machine-executed operation is at
4 least one of comprising the steps of:
5 a) sending said instructions over transmission media;
6 b) receiving said instructions over transmission media;
7 c) storing said instructions onto a machine-readable storage medium; and
8 d) executing the instructions;
9 wherein said instructions are instructions which, when executed by one or more
10 processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
11 in response to a receiving a request to instantiate ~~instantiating~~ a persistent
12 agent for a particular class, instantiating a class-specific persistent
13 agent for retrieving objects of said particular class ~~based on a name~~
14 identifying a class, said class-specific persistent agent ~~providing~~
15 provides an interface, that includes ~~including~~ a routine, for
16 retrieving a set of objects of said particular class from the
17 persistent object store, wherein the class-specific persistent agent
18 may only be used for operations involving objects that belong to
19 said particular class; and
20 in response to invoking the routine, the class-specific persistent agent
21 retrieving the set of objects ~~[[in]]~~ from the persistent object store
22 by invoking the routine via the interface provided by the persistent
23 agent.

1 12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of the
2 class-specific persistent agent retrieving the set of objects includes the step of the
3 class-specific persistent agent retrieving the set of objects [[in]] from the
4 persistent object store based further on a predicate.

1 13-17. (Cancelled)

1 18. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein said class-specific persistent agent is
2 instantiated based on a name identifying said particular class.